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REPORT NO. R-244-50
PAGE NO. 2***ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File***CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN FINNISH FO OFFICIAL AND SOVIET LEGATION ATTACHE

1. The following resume represents the highlights of two conversations between a junior official of the Finnish Foreign Office and a Russian Attaché (J. V. Bakey) of the Soviet Legation in Helsinki, in addition to one meeting with three representatives of Soviet publications: "Tass," "Izvestija," and "USSR News Bureau."

2. The Finnish official attended movies at 1900 hours on 12 July 1950. Upon departure from the theatre he felt a touch on his shoulder, and recognized J. V. Bakey, a junior official of the Soviet Legation, who smiled and began a conversation. The Finnish official had previously made the acquaintance of J. V. Bakey at a couple of cocktail parties given by various legations. Mr. Bakey suggested a walk, and after four hours of promenading (the entire time without any attempt being made to avoid being seen) the Soviet suggested they meet again sometime at his home.

3. The Russian regretted he had not had an opportunity for a conversation of this kind earlier. He expressed the opinion that the Finnish Communists were boring conversationalists, and asked why the Finnish intelligentsia couldn't be more frank with the Russians. He violently attacked the friendliness of the Finnish peoples toward the Americans, and denounced the Finnish press for its favoritism toward the United States, "Since it only distributed news from UN Headquarters about the Korean war." To this the Finnish official expressed surprise, "for he had not heard that the USSR had its own information service on the Korean front."

4. The Russian expressed the opinion that Finland had not loyally fulfilled the Friendship Pact, stating that Finland cooperated formally, but not with her heart. "Why, for instance," he asked, "does everyone try to go to the U. S. for study?" To this the Finnish official replied that if Russia would arrange a Stalin scholarship, for example, and cancel Finland's remaining war reparations, the situation might be different. To this remark the Russian made no reply.

5. The Russian was concerned that "all the Americans assigned to the American Legation knew the Russian language," stating that he considered this a direct threat on the part of America.

6. The Finn asked why the USSR demanded Karelia and war reparations for war compensation. To this the Russian replied that Karelia is of primary importance to the defense of the USSR, since the Leningrad area is one of the most valuable strategic junction points, and only the possession of Viipuri guarantees the repelling of an attack by land directed from the Isthmus.

7. The Russian openly abused the UN, and stated that the Soviet Union did not trust it, and that, in his opinion, it could "go to hell." Then he asked why the Finns admired the organization and continually tried to attain membership. The Finn expressed the thought that Finland considered the UN an important international organization, and that it was the only place where it was possible to meet and talk with Soviet officials. The Russian reacted enthusiastically and favorably to this statement.

COMMENT: This is the first known incident during the post-war period when a USSR diplomatic junior official has attempted to establish open contact with Finnish officials. The tone of the conversation clearly indicated fulfillment of orders.

8. Two days after the above conversation, the USSR official called the Finnish official and invited him to his home for dinner at 2000 hours. On arriving, the Finn found the apartment small (consisting of two rooms, a kitchen, and a sleeping room), untidy, and quite obviously temporary. The wife was untidily dressed. The food, however, was good and consisted of many tinned foods brought from the USSR. There was much alcohol served. The wife understood only Russian. The conversation, during the meal was conducted entirely in German.

9. Following the dinner, the wife of the Russian disappeared unnoticed, and at the same time the doorbell rang. Three Soviets entered on the pretense of merely saying good evening to the host, since they happened to be passing by his home. Without hesitation, however, they sat down at the table and began to look for glasses. The drinking increased and ended at 0300 a.m., with everyone very intoxicated. The three Soviets were representatives of "Tass," "Izvestija," and the "Sovinform" (USSR News

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Bureau), their respective names being Matuntsev, Dedkov, and Vorobjeff.

10. The conversation during the evening was critical of Finland. There were many toasts, however, as an "excuse" for drinking. The sole objective apparently was to get the Finn very intoxicated in order to draw out his opinions, sentiments, views and convictions on the following subjects, which were constantly repeated in variable forms:

- a. Would Finland adhere to the Friendship Agreement should it be invoked?
- b. What are the opinions of the Finnish governing circles concerning events in Korea?
- c. What makes the Finns so pro-American?
- d. How does it happen so many Americans assigned to the U. S. Legation in Helsinki know the Russian language?
- e. Why do the Finns want to become members of the United Nations?

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